

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Information is as under :

| Railway            | Number of Consequential train accidents during |         |                 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
|                    | 1995-96                                        | 1996-97 | April-June 1997 |
| Central            | 54                                             | 57      | 26              |
| Eastern            | 32                                             | 31      | 7               |
| Northern           | 50                                             | 58      | 17              |
| North Eastern      | 28                                             | 21      | 7               |
| Northeast Frontier | 23                                             | 18      | 2               |
| Southern           | 52                                             | 40      | 14              |
| South Central      | 41                                             | 42      | 14              |
| South Eastern      | 73                                             | 66      | 23              |
| Western            | 44                                             | 44      | 6               |
| Metro              | 1                                              | 1       | 1               |
| Konkan             | -                                              | 3       | 1               |
| Total              | 398                                            | 381     | 119             |

(b) Accidents on Ujjain - Bhopal and Indore - Ujjain sections were mainly due to track defect and negligence of road users while negotiating unmanned level crossings.

(c) Information is as under :

| Railway | No. of persons killed |       |              | Cost of damage to Rly. property (Rs. in lakhs) |        |              |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|--------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------|
|         | 95-96                 | 96-97 | Apr-Jun 1997 | 95-96                                          | 96-97  | Apr-Jun 1997 |
| Central | 20                    | 33    | 1            | 591.48                                         | 770.59 | 239.08       |
| Western | 11                    | 11    | -            | 90.32                                          | 132.89 | 4.10         |

#### Out of Order Telephones in Bihar

1400. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges at block headquarters of Eastern Champaran district of Bihar are lying out of order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to modernise or improve the said exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Steps have been taken to install higher capacity modern electronic exchanges alongwith reliable digital transmission media.

[English]

#### Granite Deposits

1401. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out granite deposits in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Granite being a minor mineral, the concerned State Governments are responsible for the exploitation of reserves besides, exploration activity. However, in view of the importance assumed by this mineral, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has taken up intensive resource survey for granite in the country.

(b) Approximate State-wise area surveyed by GSI are indicated below :-

| Name of State  | Approximate area covered in Sq. Km. |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 38,000                              |
| Assam          | 125                                 |
| Bihar          | 1,855                               |
| Gujarat        | 775                                 |
| Haryana        | 105                                 |
| Karnataka      | 6,320                               |
| Kerala         | 1,000                               |
| Madhya Pradesh | 4,626                               |
| Maharashtra    | 2,300                               |
| Meghalaya      | 190                                 |
| Orissa         | 1,200                               |
| Rajasthan      | 17,900                              |
| Tamil Nadu     | 4,950                               |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 3,050                               |
| West Bengal    | 1,000                               |

[Translation]

#### Trains Introduced on Ajmer-Khandwa Route

1402. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new rail services introduced on metre gauge rail route of Ajmer-Khandwa after March 31, 1991, till date; and

(b) the position of Engines and Coaches provided for this purpose during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) 69/70 Indore-Mhow Passenger has been introduced serving Ajmer-Khandwa section w.e.f. 5.2.96.

(b) During 1991-92 and 1992-93, 75 and 60 MG coaches were allotted to Western Railway. The production of MG coaches was stopped from 1993-94 due to gauge conversion.

Existing stock was utilised to run 69/70 Indore-Mhow Passenger by utilising lie-over period.

For the new M.G. trains 69/70, new diesel loco was not provided and the lie-over period of existing loco link was utilised.

#### Shankar Guruswami Committee

1403. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shankar Guruswami Committee has been entrusted with the responsibility of recommending economic concession for private institutions interested to work in the field of power transmission;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received the report of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations of the report;

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be received;

(e) whether the Government have also announced to give 16% dividend to private institutions on the investment in power transmission sector; and

(f) if so, the grounds therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir. The Sankaraguruswami Committee was set up to review the existing arrangement for planning and approval of transmission projects and to suggest guidelines for determination of transmission tariffs, negotiation of Transmission Service Agreement and for determining principles of bid solicitation and evaluation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The salient recommendations of the Committee are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Statement

*Salient Recommendations of the Committee of Experts constituted to suggest guidelines regarding private investment in transmission projects*

1. Overall planning of the transmission system should continue to be under the scope of CEA, POWERGRID and SEBs as at present.
2. There should be only one main transmission agency in each area. For the transmission system within a State it would be the respective SEB, its successor organisation (in case of restructuring) and/or the State transmission company. At regional/national level it should be POWERGRID.
3. The above main transmission agencies should continue under Government ownership.
4. The above main transmission agencies have to decide as to which part of the new transmission augmentation within their responsibility they would like to entrust to private sector.
5. Even in the case of transmission system to be entrusted to private company, the SEB/ POWERGRID should continue to be responsible for preparation of Feasibility Report/ Detailed Project Report and obtaining necessary clearances, the procedure for which should continue to be generally as followed at present.
6. The main transmission agency should then issue a specification and obtain offers from private companies for taking up the construction of new transmission facilities on ownership basis.
7. The selection of the private transmission company should be on the basis of competitive bidding, for which the quoted annual transmission charge (under specified conditions) should be the main criteria which should also be used for arriving at the transmission charge to be paid. However, for critical lines the Committee has recommended that joint venture route may be adopted by selecting a joint venture partner through a competitive bidding process. Efforts should be made to ensure that in such cases a minimum tariff emerges.
8. Annual transmission charge should be linked to the availability of the concerned transmission component. For AC systems 98.5% has been suggested as the normative availability, above which an incentive would be payable and below which there would be a steeper reduction in the annual transmission charge to be paid.